

NJIT President Named To New Innovation NJ Coalition

NEWARK, April 18, 2013--Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno has appointed [NJIT President Joel S. Bloom](#) to the newly-formed [Innovation NJ Coalition](#). NJ Secretary of Higher Education Rochelle Hendricks will chair the Coalition.

“We need to be efficient and effective to win the competition to market commercial ideas and products,” said Secretary Hendricks. “Many of our academic institutions are already doing ground-breaking research. With improved collaboration among state agencies, colleges and businesses, that research can be directly connected with the economy, helping our institutions continue to compete on a national and global scale.”

Guadagno [launched the Coalition last month](#) with the publication of “Building Bridges II: Breaking Down Barriers.” The report, prepared by the New Jersey Policy Research Organization (NJPRO) and Innovation NJ, recommends policy changes to create an innovation ecosystem. Such a system would make it easier for industry and academia to collaborate on new ideas and inventions.

Other recommendations contained in the report include:

- Cutting red tape by creating standard agreements governing intellectual property rights and collaboration between entities.
- Identifying areas of expertise within New Jersey’s colleges and universities that can form the basis for Centers of Excellence. Designation of a single center of excellence for a topic would provide guidance to interested parties searching for a research partner.
- Having a chief administrator at each college and university who will serve as a one-stop shop coordinator for businesses to connect with university information and resources.

“We’ve been in the forefront for decades of aligning industry and businesses with NJIT,” said Bloom. “Our mission has always included the economic development of New Jersey. We see this coalition providing not only a strong learning opportunity for us but also the many others whom we hope this coalition will introduce to NJIT and its resources. We look forward to being on the cutting edge of helping the state attract more federal funds and bring innovative products and ideas to market.”

NJIT has long-championed economic development both in New Jersey and the nation, to facilitate economic development, a core mission of the university, and the growth of small, innovative businesses. In 1988, NJIT was among the nation’s first to establish a small business incubator for the sole purpose of helping grow new businesses with the focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Today, NJIT’s [Enterprise Development Center](#) (EDC) remains among the nation’s largest small business incubators, home to 90-plus high-tech and life-science companies. Guadagno and her staff frequently visit the 110,000 square-foot, two-building complex on the NJIT campus to meet entrepreneurs developing new and innovative technologies. The facilities offer first class office space and laboratories. Among EDC’s most valuable resources is fast access to NJIT faculty and undergraduate and graduate students immersed in STEM fields. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to partner with researchers to help grow their business. EDC is in the heart of Newark’s University Heights Science Park and the Newark Innovation Zone.

NJIT, New Jersey’s science and technology university, enrolls more than 9,943 students pursuing bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in 120 programs. The university consists of six colleges: Newark College of Engineering, College of Architecture and Design, College of Science and Liberal Arts, School of Management, College of Computing Sciences and Albert Dorman Honors College. U.S. News & World Report’s 2012 Annual Guide to America’s Best Colleges ranked NJIT in the top tier of national research universities. NJIT is internationally recognized for being at the edge in knowledge in architecture, applied mathematics, wireless communications and networking, solar physics, advanced engineered particulate materials, nanotechnology, neural engineering and e-learning. Many courses and certificate programs, as well as graduate degrees, are available online through the Division of Continuing Professional Education.